



SMALL PRAIRIE BURN BASICS

Suggested reading: "How to Manage Small Prairie Fires"

By Wayne R. Pauley

EVERY FIRE IS A POTENTIAL WILD FIRE!



1. Choose a day with high humidity (45-60%), moderate temperatures (40-60°) and low wind (3-6 mph). Make sure wind won't carry smoke across roads.
2. Plan the burn on paper, one plan for each wind direction.
3. Have plenty of help, armed with rakes, shovels & hoses.
4. Make sure you have a good water source, even if you have to carry it in by bucket.
5. Build good firebreaks 3-20' wide.
6. Contact local fire department & neighbors the day before you burn.
7. Keep pets indoors.
8. Wear leather shoes, a cap, and close-fitting natural fiber clothing with no frayed spots. Nylon & down jackets are highly flammable and nylon windsuits will melt.
9. Make sure you've extinguished all smoldering hot spots. Double check areas around structures (fences, poles, boulders, etc.)

**For more training in burning prairie areas,
contact the Missouri Department of Conservation
Forestry Division at 573-751-4115.**